For gas based units, cost of feedstock accounts for 60% of the total cost of production, whereas for naphtha and FO/LSHS based units, it is about 75% of the total cost of production.

**Setting up of Mega Chemical Industrial Estates in the Country**

3681. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government propose to set up mega chemical industrial estates in Haldia, West Bengal and Vizag, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a similar zone is also proposed to be set up in the backward Orissa region to improve its economy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, assisted by Consultants is studying the feasibility of setting up Mega Chemical Industrial Estates at different locations in the country. A Task Force on Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIR) has also been constituted in the Prime Minister's Office on 20-1-2006, in order to enable quick and coordinated decision making and to provide an appropriate policy framework for the development of investment regions of requisite scale and level of facilities, with the involvement of world class developers and investors, in the field of petroleum, chemicals and petrochemicals. This Task Force will also finalize the number and locations of PCPIRs. A definite time limit has not been fixed at this stage.

**High prices of medicines produced in tax holiday States**

3682. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that retailers all over prefer to sell medicines produced in tax holiday State;

(b) whether it is also a fact that maximum retail prices of drugs produced in non-exempt States are lower than those produced in tax holiday States; and

(c) if so, how Government propose to save the patient's interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) As per the present Pharma Pricing Policy, the 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed /revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. These drugs have been kept under price control on the basis of criteria mentioned in 'Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986', announced in September, 1994.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The NPPA monitors the prices of medicines as per monthly Retail Audit Reports of ORG-IMS Research Pvt. Ltd. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has not conducted any study regarding prices of medicines in the excise free zones. If MRP printed on the product label of any Scheduled formulation pack manufactured in excise exempt zones is found to be higher than the notified price (excluding excise duty), if will be considered to be a case of overcharging and necessary action will be taken as per the provisions of the DPCO 1995 for recovering the overcharged amount.

**Availability of gas as fuels in chemical fertilizer plants**

†3683. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.